

Lee, Chris

From: John Rothe <john.rothe@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Lee, Chris
Subject: Public Testimony Regarding Forest Home Library

I would like to go on the record that the Forest Home Library should not be demolished, and should receive permanent historic designation. This is a stellar example of Modernist architecture and has served our community for generations. There are many years of useful life left in this building, and it can continue to serve the community for generations to come. Cities all across the country are saving buildings like this, restoring them, finding new adaptive uses for them, and preserving buildings like this that make cities better places to live. There are countless examples from across the country on how buildings like the Forest Home Library can be restored, revitalized, and reused.

There is also the saying that the greenest building is one that is already built. Large amounts of energy and materials went into constructing the corten steel and glass, not to mention all the internal building components. These materials all have generations of lifespan left in them. Simply put, landfilling all of this now is environmentally criminal. In addition, there is a perfectly good empty lot not 2 blocks away that would suit the proposed development as well if not better. There is simply no excuse to landfill this architectural landmark, and the people who proposed it should be ashamed of themselves. Milwaukee needs to do the right thing and preserve our stellar architectural heritage, not tear it down in favor of cookie-cutter 20-year buildings that could be anywhere.

Thank you,
John Rothe